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(54) Rice Cooker Water Level Measurement Device

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**Brief Description of the Drawings**

Fig. 1 is an oblique perspective drawing of the current water level measurement device; Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 show the current water level measurement device in use.

**Detailed Explanation of the Device**

The current device relates to a measuring apparatus for accurately and easily measuring the appropriate water level in a rice cooker by making use of water's property of always naturally forming a level horizontal surface. Up until now, measurement of the amount of water appropriate for a given amount of rice in a rice cooker has generally been carried out using a line on the inside of the rice cooker pot indicating the appropriate amount of water for a given amount of rice. The water level was regulated using a measuring cup or similar device until the amount of water was made to match up with the water level line that corresponded to the amount of washed rice. Accordingly, in the past, it was often necessary to use a measuring cup or similar

device to make repeated adjustments to the water level in the pot. This method also had the drawback that if the base of the pot was located on an uneven surface, rice cooked with the water level accurately adjusted to match the water level line led to problems, with the rice being poorly cooked.

The current device was conceived with the expectation of resolving the above-mentioned shortcomings, and is described in detail below with reference to the illustrated embodiment.

A cylindrical pot-like vessel 1 with base is formed with a lip 2 around the outer edge of an upper opening. Represented by 3 is a hook-shaped water level measuring device formed with a bent element 4, and also having cup measurement markings on the upper surface of a slat 5. The water level measuring device 3 is situated diagonally across the inside of the pot-like vessel 1 with the tip of slat 5 being made to extend into the lower interior corner of the vessel, and the bent element 4 being made to fit over the lip 2 of the vessel's opposite outer edge.

With both water and rice first having been added to the pot-like vessel 1, and the water level measuring device 3 situated diagonally in the vessel with the tip of slat 5 extending into the vessel's lower corner and the opposite bent element 4 of the water level measuring device hooked over the lip 2 of the opposite upper opening, the pot-like vessel is tilted until the surface plane of the water reaches the downward-tilted lip of the vessel's upper opening. The cup measurement markings on the water level measurement device 3 are pre-situated in such a way that when the pot-like vessel 1 is angled as described above, the cup measurement markings on the water level measurement device 3 will be intersected by the surface of the water at a point indicating the appropriate amount of water for a given amount of rice. The current device is shown formed with a slat 5, but a cylindrical form is, of course, also possible.

To explain the operation in some detail, after a given amount of rice has been washed and placed in the pot-like vessel 1, an amount of water in excess of the estimated amount appropriate for the given quantity of rice is added to the pot-like vessel along with the water level measuring device 3, which is situated diagonally in the vessel with the tip of slat 5 made to contact the lower interior corner of the vessel and the opposite bent element 4 made to fit over the lip 2 of the vessel's opposite upper opening. The pot-like vessel is then tilted and water is discharged from the vessel until the surface level of the water is made to coincide with the appropriate cup measurement marking on the water level measurement device 3.

As described above, the current device allows for accurate measurement of the amount of water appropriate for a given amount of rice through a single action of slowly discharging water from a pot-like vessel into which the water level measuring device has been placed. What is more, even in a case where the surface on which the vessel sits is uneven, the current device will not lead to errors in measurement. In summary, the current device allows for simple and accurate measurement of the water level in a pot-like vessel through a very simple construction, and thus its practical use value is great.

## **Scope of Registered Utility Model Claims**

A rice cooker water level measuring device that will indicate the appropriate amount of water corresponding to a given amount of rice when both water and rice are placed in a pot-like vessel along with the measuring device, characterized in that the location at which pre-situated graduated markings on the device are intersected by the plane of the water's surface will show the appropriate amount of water for a given amount of rice when the measuring device is situated diagonally in the pot-like vessel with one end of the measuring device in the vessel's lower interior corner and the opposing end extending to the opposite outer lip of the vessel's upper opening and when that vessel is tilted so as to cause the surface plane of the water to reach the lowest point of the outer lip of the vessel's upper opening.

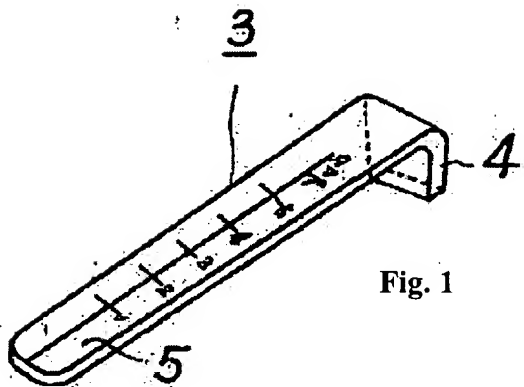


Fig. 1

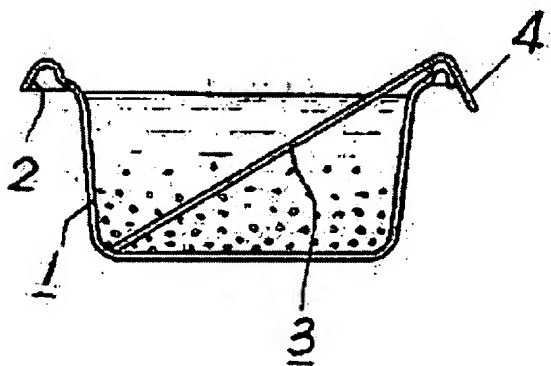


Fig. 2

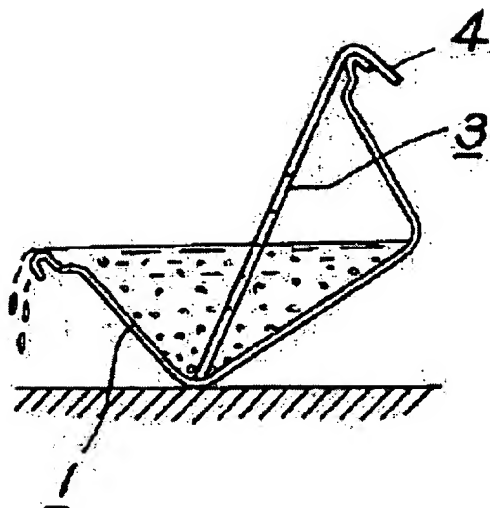


Fig. 3